

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1-10.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hasegawa et al. (U.S. 6,280,898).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A brief discussion of the present invention will be of assistance in appreciating Applicants' reasons for traversal of the rejection.

Main claim 1 is directed to a photoresist composition of which a significant feature consists of a unique polymeric resin as the component (A) comprising three different types of monomeric units (a1), (a2), and (a3). The rejection appears to take a position that the Polymers 24-26 (column 47) each meet the definition of component (A) in present claim 1.

This contention is clearly due to an erroneous understanding of what is disclosed in the reference and what is defined in claim 1 for component (A).

The three different types of monomeric units constituting each of the Polymers 24-26 are shown in columns 47-48 of Hasegawa, at the left, middle and right respectively. While the monomeric unit (a3) in the copolymer of claim 1 is a monomeric unit of an ester compound between (meth)acrylic and a straight-chain alcohol substituted by a hydroxyl group, alkoxy group or acyl group, none of the monomeric units shown in column 47 of Hasegawa for the Polymers 24-26 meets this definition.

The monomeric unit dl (col. 47, right) of Hasegawa is a unit derived from an ester compound between methacrylic acid and an alcohol substituted by ethoxy group, i.e. an alkoxy group. However, the substituted alcohol is not an alkoxy-substituted straight-chain alcohol but rather an alkoxy-substituted branched-chain alcohol expressed by the formula $\text{CH}_3\text{-CHOH-O-C}_2\text{H}_5$. In other words, the dl unit of Polymers 24-26 of Hasegawa is a unit derived from an alkoxyalkyl-substituted methacrylic acid.

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the polymeric resin of Hasegawa neither discloses nor suggests that presently claimed.

Accordingly, the rejection on Hasegawa is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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